

**Administrative Committee  
on Coordination**ACC/1995/2  
12 May 1995

ENGLISH ONLY

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE  
AT ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION (PART I)

(IAEA headquarters, Vienna, 13-16 February 1995)

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Organizational Committee (OC) of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) met at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from 13 to 16 February 1995. OC adopted the annotated agenda for the session, which is contained in annex I. The list of participants is contained in annex II. The outcome of a further meeting of OC, to be held immediately after the ACC session, will be reflected in part II of the present summary of conclusions.

## I. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 1995 OF ACC

A. International drug abuse control

2. The representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) introduced a discussion paper prepared by his organization on the basis of consultations with other organizations of the system, in particular through the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ), in order to facilitate discussion of this item in ACC.

3. Taking into account the discussion paper and the comments and suggestions made during the discussion, the Committee prepared annotations to the ACC agenda, proposing the key issues around which ACC's consideration of the item might be structured.

B. Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

4. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) introduced the background note prepared by his organization for ACC's deliberations on the role of the United Nations system in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development.

5. Taking into account the background note and the comments and suggestions made during the discussion, the Committee prepared annotations to the ACC agenda and a set of draft conclusions for ACC's consideration and adoption.

6. In connection with the recommendation concerning the revision of the existing ACC Standard Classification of population activities, the view was expressed that, in the light of the requirements for follow-up and reporting on a number of other recent or forthcoming global conferences, an overall review of the ACC Classification might also be required. It was recognized that there was considerable demand for financial and programmatic information from delegations and from member Governments in general, and that the ACC report on programmes and resources was used extensively. It was agreed that CCPOQ and the Consultative Committee on Advisory Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ (FB)) should be consulted on the need for and feasibility of such an overall review.

C. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

7. The Secretary of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) briefed OC on the outcome of the fifth session of IACSD, held in New York from 1 to 3 February 1995, and drew attention to the issues identified by IACSD in its report for consideration by ACC.

8. Members of OC expressed the view that the draft ACC statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development should highlight the issues of the additional financing of Agenda 21, the proliferation of reporting requirements and the imbalance between the environmental and the development dimensions in the follow-up to Agenda 21. The draft statement prepared by IACSD, as revised, will be submitted to ACC for adoption.

9. Regarding the draft ACC report to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for 1995 on international cooperation in the field of the environment, the representative of UNEP informed the Committee about the process of inter-agency consultations undertaken in the preparation of the draft report. The draft report focused on policy issues related to system-wide Earthwatch and, in particular, on the requirement for environmental information for decision-making and future interlinkages with development data. The requirement for ready access to information to ensure a coordinated and efficient approach to decision-making for sustainable development was stressed. The draft report will be annexed to the ACC agenda.

10. On the question of the inter-agency arrangements for ensuring effective and coordinated follow-up to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, OC noted that IACSD had agreed that it would act as the main mechanism for this purpose. The representative of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) indicated that his organization would be ready to act as the task manager/focal point for the substantive area of air transport. The representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) noted that his organization's mandate covered only certain aspects of the tourism sector and that UNCTAD would need to share responsibility with other agencies and collaborate with the World Tourism Organization, if it were to act as task manager in this sector.

11. OC, on behalf of ACC, took note of the proposed venues and dates of the sixth session of IACSD (WHO headquarters, Geneva, 5-7 July 1995), the sixteenth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources (UNDP headquarters, New York, 27-29 September 1995) and the third and fourth sessions of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas (the third session to be hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 28 to 30 August 1995 and the fourth session to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 12 January 1996).

D. Questions relating to the status of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system

12. OC had before it a background paper prepared by the secretariat of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) (CCAQ(PER)) and a report prepared by the Steering Committee on the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat, together with an exchange of correspondence between the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the Steering Committee.

13. The Secretary of CCAQ(PER) introduced the background paper, which provided information on initiatives taken by individual organizations to advance the status of women and statistical data relating to the composition and recruitment of staff by gender, level and age, as well as time in grade by gender and level, together with some approaches that had facilitated progress for organizations.

14. A representative of the United Nations provided supplementary information to the Committee on actions being taken by the United Nations relating to the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat.

15. Noting that the issue was of system-wide concern, OC observed that major factors in effecting change were commitment at the highest level, the development of specific policies and monitoring mechanisms, and the importance of holding managers accountable for implementing policies and practices that supported gender equality. In particular, measures needed to be taken to create a supportive environment conducive to the equal participation of men and women in the work of the organizations, to increase the flexibility with which the system dealt with women and to remove obstacles to their recruitment, retention, promotion and mobility.

16. OC proposed a draft statement to ACC for adoption. OC also agreed that a summary of best practices should be maintained by the secretariat of CCAQ (PER) and brought to the attention of ACC through OC on a regular basis.

E. Administrative questions

17. OC was briefed by the Secretary of CCAQ (PER) on issues relating to the review of the application of the Noblemaire principle, including General Assembly resolution 49/223, in which the Assembly requested the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) to proceed with all urgency with its study of all aspects of the Noblemaire principle, and to submit final recommendations to

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the Assembly at the earliest opportunity. OC expressed concern at the lack of progress in the review of the application of the Noblemaire principle, and considered it essential that recommendations on the matter be submitted to the General Assembly for action at its fiftieth session.

18. On the question of the participation of the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and of representatives of the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA) and the Coordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA) in ACC in the context of its consideration of this agenda item, OC requested the Chairman to extend invitations in the usual manner to the Chairman of ICSC and the representatives of the two staff associations.

#### F. Other matters

19. OC was informed by its Chairman of the arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General in his letter of 9 February 1995 for following up the conclusions reached on African economic recovery and development at the second regular session of 1994 of ACC.

20. In response to questions, OC was assured that the arrangements proposed were not intended to be of a continuing nature, but represented a means of maintaining the momentum gained on the issue and of engaging organizations at the highest level in the preparation of action proposals for consideration at the second regular session of 1995 of ACC. Care would be taken to ensure that this ad hoc process take into account the existing macroeconomic reform programmes and other social or sectoral programmes being implemented by individual countries. Care would also be taken to ensure that the work of the Steering Group not duplicate but draw upon such existing mechanisms as the Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development (IATF). In this process, the requirements of the preparations for and outcome of the discussions on Africa at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 1995 of the Economic and Social Council would be taken into account. Relevant aspects of recent ACC discussions on the division of labour within the system, which were also pursued in the Secretary-General's report on an agenda for development, would likewise be drawn upon. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and relevant technical staff in the organizations concerned would be fully involved in the provision of secretariat support.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

21. The Chairman drew the attention of OC to the arrangements for the organization of the Forum on the Future of the United Nations System, as indicated in the Secretary-General's letter of 6 January 1995 to executive heads.

III. REPORTS OF ACC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES AND  
OTHER INTER-AGENCY BODIES

A. Reports of ACC consultative committees

Report of CCPOQ on its fifth session (Geneva, 31 January-3 February 1995)

22. The Secretary of CCPOQ briefed OC on the work of the fifth session of CCPOQ. OC concurred with the recommendation regarding the venue and dates of the sixth session (United Nations Headquarters, 21-25 August 1995).

23. OC noted that a paper on the work of the system in the area of poverty alleviation, prepared within the framework of CCPOQ, was currently being finalized and that consideration was being given to modalities for its circulation at the World Summit for Social Development.

24. OC expressed the hope that the review by the Subcommittee on Nutrition of its work programme, functioning and arrangements for chairmanship would be completed in the very near future, in accordance with the relevant decisions of ACC regarding the functioning of its subsidiary bodies.

25. OC noted that the Chairpersons of CCPOQ and IACSD would hold consultations on the establishment of a division of labour between the two Committees in the area of science and technology, bearing in mind their respective mandates. OC agreed to revert to this matter at its next session in the light of the outcome of those consultations.

26. Recalling the procedure for appointments to posts in inter-agency financed secretariats, OC, on behalf of ACC, endorsed the extension of Mr. Deane as Secretary of CCPOQ for a period of two years.

Report of CCAQ (FB) on its eighty-first session (New York, 29 August-2 September 1994)

27. OC, on behalf of ACC, took note of the report of CCAQ (FB) on its eighty-first session.

B. Reports of bodies reporting to OC

Report of ISCC on its second session (Geneva, 17-19 October 1994)

28. OC had before it the report of the Information Systems Coordination Committee (ISCC) on its second session.

29. OC noted that the ISCC budget for 1996-1997 was currently being reviewed by CCAQ(FB) and agreed to revert to the issue during the second part of its present session.

30. OC also endorsed the designation of Mr. Northcut of ICAO as Secretary of ISCC.

31. OC agreed to review the functioning of ISCC at its next meeting.

#### IV. ANNUAL OVERVIEW REPORT OF ACC FOR 1994

32. A representative of the United Nations introduced the annual overview report of ACC for 1994. OC welcomed the improved procedures for consultations followed in the preparation of the draft. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), the draft contained a new section highlighting coordination policy issues for consideration by intergovernmental bodies, such as CPC and the Economic and Social Council.

33. OC agreed that any specific drafting changes should be submitted to the United Nations for incorporation in the final version of the report, which would be considered for adoption by OC, on behalf of ACC, at the second part of its current session.

#### V. REVIEW OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS RELATING TO APPOINTMENTS TO JIU AND OTHER INTER-AGENCY FINANCED BODIES AND THEIR SECRETARIATS

34. A representative of the United Nations introduced the background paper prepared by the United Nations reviewing current procedures, and problems encountered, with respect to ACC consultations on appointments by the Secretary-General of secretaries of jointly financed bodies, notably the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and ICSC, and on the nomination of members to those bodies.

35. The Committee considered that the proposals outlined in the background paper constituted a good basis for reaching agreement on measures to ensure a more effective and timely consultative process. Recalling that the statutes of ICSC and JIU clearly specified the qualifications required for appointments to these bodies, the Committee noted that improvements in the consultative process should be pursued as part of a broader effort to promote close adherence to these requirements and to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of those bodies. Considerations of cost-effectiveness and budgetary implications, particularly in the light of the financial constraints being faced by participating organizations, would likewise need to be addressed.

36. The Committee recalled that broader issues relating to the functioning of those bodies were to be addressed in a further report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. Noting that certain aspects of the consultative process had also been included in the agenda of CCAQ (PER), OC concluded that consideration should be given to convening a meeting of CCAQ as a whole to prepare a comprehensive submission on the above issues for consideration by ACC at its second regular session of 1995. The ACC conclusions would in turn be drawn upon in the finalization of the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General.

37. The Committee requested the Chairman of OC to undertake the necessary consultations regarding the arrangements for convening CCAQ.

VI. OUTSTANDING ISSUES RELATING TO THE FUNCTIONING  
OF THE ACC SUBSIDIARY MACHINERY

A. Follow-up to the ACC decision concerning the co-location,  
in Geneva, of inter-agency financed secretariats of ACC  
subsidiary bodies

38. The Secretary of CCAQ (PER) informed OC that, together with the Secretaries of CCAQ (FB) and CCPOQ, he had been pursuing consultations with a view to identifying an arrangement for the co-location of inter-agency financed Secretariats in Geneva. OC regretted that to date no solution had been found and decided to revert to the matter at its next session.

B. Brochure on the ACC machinery

39. OC was informed that the brochure on the ACC machinery was being finalized and would be cleared with members by correspondence.

40. In addition to the brochure, OC requested that a comprehensive compilation of all OC/ACC decisions on the operation of the ACC machinery be prepared for use by the United Nations system staff concerned. It should include the terms of reference of all standing committees and their subsidiaries, as well as OC/ACC decisions and guidelines with respect to the functioning of the ACC machinery emanating from the 1993 reform process.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

41. Relevant aspects of the reports of IACSD, CCPOQ, CCAQ (FB) and ISCC have been drawn to the attention of ACC under the relevant agenda items. Other meetings of ACC subsidiary bodies are proposed to be held as follows:

IACSD	Geneva	5-7 July 1995
CCPOQ	New York	21-25 August 1995
CCAQ (FB)	New York	28 August-1 September 1995
CCAQ (PER)	Montreal	24-28 April 1995
	New York	17-21 July 1995

42. There are no changes in arrangements for the chairmanship of these Committees to be drawn to ACC's attention.

43. The Secretary-General has proposed the dates of 21 and 22 September 1995 for the second regular session of ACC. A number of executive heads may be unable to attend on these dates owing to meetings of their governing bodies.

44. Substantive items on the agenda of the session could include, in addition to African economic recovery and development, follow-up to international conferences; follow-up to UNCED; administrative questions, particularly personnel issues, with special attention to the review of the application of the

Noblemaire principle, and issues related to the functioning of ICSC and JIU and related inter-agency consultative processes.

45. At the second part of its current session, OC will take a decision on the dates of its next meeting.



Annex I

ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Preparation for the first regular session of 1995 of ACC

(a) International drug abuse control

A discussion paper to help orient ACC's discussions on the matter is currently being prepared by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), in consultation with organizations. A draft of the paper incorporating inputs received will be considered at the first regular session of 1995 of CCPOQ. Thereafter, the draft will be further revised, as required, and will be made available in advance of the OC session.

(b) Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

ACC will have before it a note by the Executive Director of UNFPA and Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development on the follow-up to that Conference (Cairo, 5-13 September 1994) and its relevance to, and linkages with, forthcoming conferences, particularly the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. The note will be made available in advance of the OC session.

(c) Follow-up to UNCED

At its second regular session of 1994, ACC, on the basis of the report of the fourth session of IACSD, reviewed IACSD's membership and addressed issues relating to reporting and meeting requirements and the resource needs of organizations in connection with the implementation of Agenda 21. It requested IACSD to pursue its review of the follow-up to UNCED, placing special emphasis on the streamlining of reporting requirements. The report of IACSD on its fifth session (New York, 1-3 February 1995), containing the results of the second phase of the review being undertaken by the Committee, will be made available in advance of the OC session.

(d) Questions relating to the status of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system

A background paper on the subject, being prepared by the secretariat of CCAQ (PER), will be made available in advance of the OC session.

(e) Administrative questions

A note on the follow-up to the conclusions on administrative questions adopted by ACC at its last session will be made available in advance of the OC session.

It is envisaged that, in accordance with established practice, arrangements will be made for ACC, in the context of its consideration of this agenda item, to hear statements from, and have an exchange of views with, the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and representatives of the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA) and the Coordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA).

(f) Other matters

Under this item, ACC's attention will be drawn to issues concerning the follow-up to relevant conclusions reached at the last session of ACC, particularly with regard to African economic recovery and development and the division of labour within the system, so that it may decide on arrangements for pursuing these matters, both in ACC itself and within its subsidiary machinery. Issues arising from the OC session, and from the reports of other subsidiary bodies, requiring ACC's action or attention will also be identified, as necessary, and brought to the attention of ACC.

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In line with present practice, it is suggested that arrangements be made during the OC session for the preparation of a single paper for ACC, which would also serve as the annotated agenda and incorporate all material requiring ACC's attention and/or action.

3. Organization of the Forum on the Future of the United Nations System

OC may wish to review the state of preparation for the Forum to be held on 1 March. The Secretary-General will write shortly to executive heads on the matter.

4. Reports of ACC consultative committees and other inter-agency bodies

(a) Reports of ACC consultative committees

Report of CCPOQ on its fifth session (Geneva,  
31 January-3 February 1995).

Report of CCAQ (FB) on its eighty-first session (New York,  
29 August-2 September 1994).

(b) Reports of bodies reporting to OC

Report of ISCC on its second session (Geneva,  
17-19 October 1994).

5. Annual overview report of ACC for 1994

OC will have before it, for approval on behalf of ACC, a draft of the annual overview report of ACC for 1994.

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6. Review of the consultative process relating to appointments to JIU and other inter-agency financed bodies and their secretariats

At its second regular session of 1994, OC agreed to undertake, in 1995, a thorough review of procedures governing the conduct of inter-agency consultations on appointments of secretaries of jointly financed bodies, as well as on nominations of members of JIU and ICSC. The United Nations was requested to prepare a paper on the subject which would provide the basis for OC to recommend improvements in existing procedures, for consideration by ACC. The paper will be available in advance of the OC session.

7. Outstanding issues relating to the functioning of the ACC subsidiary machinery

(a) Follow-up to the ACC decision concerning the co-location, in Geneva, of inter-agency financed secretariats of ACC subsidiary bodies

At its second regular session of 1994, OC noted with regret that no satisfactory solution for the co-location in Geneva of inter-agency financed secretariats of ACC subsidiary bodies had yet been found. It stated that it remained convinced that co-location, under appropriate conditions, would greatly benefit the work of the units concerned, and requested the secretaries of the inter-agency bodies concerned and, as feasible, their chairpersons, to pursue consultations with the United Nations Office at Geneva, with a view to working out a mutually satisfactory solution. OC will receive a progress report on the matter.

(b) Brochure on the ACC machinery

At its second regular session of 1994, OC approved the text of a note describing the functioning and structure of the ACC machinery to serve internal information purposes in the various organizations. In addition, the Committee agreed to request the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat to prepare a public information brochure geared towards Governments, delegations and other interested circles which would provide a brief description of the United Nations system and summarize and simplify the information on the ACC machinery contained in the note referred to above. The brochure is currently under preparation and it is hoped that a draft will be available in time for the OC session.

8. Other matters

Under this item, OC will receive a status report on activities and events relating to the fiftieth anniversary of system-wide concern. OC will also need to make recommendations on dates, venues and agendas for future sessions of ACC and to take decisions on arrangements for its own meetings in 1995.

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Policy and programme developments in organizations of the United Nations system

In the context of ongoing discussions on OC's own functioning, the Committee, at its second regular session of 1994, agreed that one day of its first regular session each year should be devoted to a broad exchange of information and views on policy and programme developments in each organization that were of relevance to the system. It is proposed that discussions at the current session focus on:

(a) The reform processes under way in the various organizations of the system;

(b) The main substantive themes/priorities emerging in the various organizations to guide their future work programmes.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: P. Civili (United Nations)

Secretary: C. Hackett (United Nations)

United Nations entities and programmes

United Nations	S. Khan J. Beagle
Department of Administration and Management	C. Dodson
Regional Commissions New York Office	H. Schmidt
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	K. Kousari
United Nations Environment Programme	A. Z. Amin
United Nations Children's Fund	M. Kamau D. Jones
United Nations Development Programme	J. J. Graisse N. Chandavakar
United Nations Population Fund	S. L. N. Rao
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	S. Berglund
United Nations International Drug Control Programme	G. Day M. H. Kabir
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	N. Hassan
World Food Programme	W. Schleiffer

Specialized agencies and IAEA

International Labour Organization	G. Minet
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	J. S. Camara

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	L. Schaudinn M. Landry
International Civil Aviation Organization	E. W. Faller
World Health Organization	Y. Kawaguchi Maaza Bekele
World Bank	C. B. Boucher
International Monetary Fund	R. Bhatia
Universal Postal Union	G. Kalicki
International Telecommunication Union	M. Paratian
International Maritime Organization	F. Labastida
World Intellectual Property Organization	K. J. Suedi
International Fund for Agricultural Development	U. N. Abhyankar
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	H. Muegge
* * *	
International Atomic Energy Agency	M. Elbaradei M. S. Opelz K. Keltsch S. K. Sharma
* * *	
Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions)	R. Eggleston
Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions	D. Deane

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